



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WEST COAST GOVERNORS' AGREEMENT ON OCEAN HEALTH (WCGA) STATE WORKSHOPS TO IDENTIFY PROJECTS THAT SUPPORT REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS (ROPS) AND ADVANCE REGIONAL MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING ON THE WEST COAST

1. Can we submit our own proposal in addition to the proposal the WCGA is submitting?

The WCGA believes a coordinated approach to identifying regional priorities and the submission of a single proposal (which may include several different projects) greatly enhances the ability of the West Coast to compete for this funding. The WCGA is following the guidance of the Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program (ROPFP) Federal Funding Opportunity (www.csc.noaa.gov/funding), which states, “each proposal must directly involve or include a letter of support or endorsement from the lead Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROP)¹ for each region for the purposes of this funding opportunity. The letter should confirm that the proposed project has been evaluated for its contributions to regional ROP priorities, and specifically indicate concurrence with recommended approach and proposal funding amounts.” The ROPFP further identifies the lead ROP for the West Coast as the WCGA. We encourage all those interested in regional collaboration and West Coast Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) to help shape the application for funds. WCGA’s preference is to incorporate multiple initiatives into one proposal rather than have individual applicants submit individual proposals; WCGA believes a unified submittal will ensure and underscore that progress toward developing a regional plan will proceed in a coordinated fashion. WCGA will be collaborating with tribes regarding the West Coast submittal.

2. Do we have an opportunity to contribute our thoughts or concerns if we don’t attend a workshop?

Yes. Although the timeline is short (the deadline for submission of the regional proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is December 10, 2010), a portal to the WCGA website (<http://www.westcoastoceans.gov>) will be made available on November 8 to encourage the public to provide initial comments on the scoping document that will be used in the three state workshops, as well as to share any general comments. Specific project ideas for inclusion in the West Coast proposal can be submitted starting the week of November 8 through November 19, 2010 via an online tool or electronic document (links to both will be available at www.westcoastoceans.gov; see Appendix B of the [scoping document](#) to see a paper copy). In addition, a public webinar will be held on November 30, 2010 that will share information on the

¹ Regional Ocean Partnerships are voluntary, usually multi-state, Governor-established forums that develop shared priorities and take critical action on a broad diversity of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes needs, as relevant to their region. They have different structures and employ varied methods and approaches to enhance the ecological and economic health of the region. Their efforts involve non-governmental stakeholders and all of the multiple state and federal agencies involved in coastal and ocean management.

results of the three workshops, followed by an additional public comment period through December 3, 2010.

3. Can I or another member of my organization attend more than 1 workshop?

Yes. Simply inform the WCGA Coordinator at lisad@createstrat.com if you or your colleagues wish to attend any workshop(s).

4. The ROPFP references “region” throughout the document. How does WCGA define “region”?

The ROPFP states the funding opportunity is “focused on advancing effective coastal and ocean management through regional ocean governance, including the goals for national ocean policy and coastal and marine spatial planning set out in the July 2010 Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force.”² The National Ocean Policy defines the West Coast Region as including the states of California, Oregon, and Washington. The proposal that is submitted must comply with the requirement to work toward a regional marine spatial plan encompassing these three states, which will require the establishment of an overall planning approach, but could also include individual projects that help achieve the goal of marine spatial planning throughout the region. The WCGA has included additional regional criteria within the [scoping document](#).

5. There’s a great deal of work that has occurred and continues to occur in the West Coast region relative to coastal and marine spatial planning. How will all of this be addressed by the WCGA and the process to respond to the Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program (ROPFP)?

The ROPFP response is the first phase of a multi-phased WCGA process to advance West Coast ROP priorities and develop CMSP as a tool to advance those priorities. The ROPFP has provided the catalyst for a collaborative process to identify initial regional CMSP priorities, efforts, capacities, and needs. This first phase will culminate in the submission to NOAA of a federal funding proposal for the West Coast region by December 10, 2010.

Pending receipt of federal funding, the WCGA anticipates joining with tribes, government agencies, scientists and technical experts, and stakeholders to launch a more deliberative multi-phase effort that will include activities such as assessing and developing CMSP data and tools, proposing a regional planning body for the West Coast region, developing a collaborative process to inform CMSP, creating a CMSP draft work plan, and furthering implementation of WCGA ACT work plans and other actions in the WCGA Action Plan. The establishment of a regional planning body would include a set of agreements and implementing processes among all the participants in a West Coast coastal and marine spatial planning initiative that aligns with the National Ocean Policy.

6. How many projects does the WCGA anticipate it will be submitting within its proposal?

It’s too early to tell, and the WCGA doesn’t want to restrict creative thinking at this stage of the process. The workshops and public comment process are intended to encourage collaboration and strategic thinking to develop a set of strong projects that advance CMSP and regional ocean priorities.

² http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OTPF_FinalRecs.pdf